Security Message for U.S. Citizens United States Embassy Manila, Philippines

October 9, 2014

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO U.S. CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD.

THANK YOU.

Bombing Plot Suspects Arrested

The U.S. Embassy wishes to alert U.S. citizens that, according to October 8 media reports, police arrested suspects involved in a bombing plot planned for targets in metro Manila. The plot was exposed on October 7 following the arrest in Quezon City of three men known to have links to terrorist organizations.

The Embassy wishes to remind all U.S. citizens to remain vigilant and maintain an appropriate level of personal security in all circumstances by reviewing your personal security plans; remaining aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitoring local news sources for updates. If you see a suspicious object or package, do not disturb it. Immediately notify an appropriate official, such as a police officer or building security staff, and leave the area. If you are in the vicinity when a security threat occurs, leave the area immediately. Do not approach the scene of a bombing or remain in the area. Witnesses are encouraged to report such events to the Embassy's Regional Security Office at 301-2000.

The Embassy is located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines and is open 0730-1600, Monday through Friday. The Embassy's main telephone number is (632) 301-2000. American citizens needing to speak to the Embassy can dial this number and ask to be connected to the American Citizen Services (ACS) unit or with the Embassy Duty Officer (for calls outside of normal business hours). You can also contact the ACS unit through email at ACSInfoManila@state.gov or through the Embassy-facebook-page. Please visit our website for information on all services offered by the ACS unit.

Contact the U.S. embassy for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>, to have travel information at your fingertips.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in the Philippines enroll in the <u>Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)</u> at <u>travel.state.gov</u>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State <u>Department's website</u>, where you can find current <u>Travel Warnings</u>, (including the <u>Travel Warning for the Philippines</u>), Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the <u>Country Specific Information for the Philippines</u>. For additional information, refer to <u>"Traveler's Checklist"</u> on the State Department's website.